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Your contributions

THE ARCHER team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

If you have a news item, memory or anecdote please send it in to us at the above address.

14 December is the copy deadline for the January issue.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Utilities (for N2)

Eastern Energy 0800 783 8838
London Electricity 0800 096 9000
OFTEL 020 7634 8700
Thames Water 0845 920 0888
Three Valleys Water 0845 782 3333
Gas consumers cncl. 0645 060708
Transco Gas Emerg. 0800 111 999

Councils

Barnet
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Health Authority 020 8201 4700
Com'ty Health Cncl 020 8349 4364
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
Cophthall Sports Ctr. 020 8361 8658
E. Finchley Library 020 8883 2664
Gt North Leisure Pk. 020 8343 9830
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema 020 8883 2233
Tourist Info Service 0870 126 4018
Warner Cinema Village 020 8446 9933

*Calls to 09065 numbers are charged at £1.50 per minute.

Help & Advice

Barnet Racial Equality Council 020 8446 0445
Childline 0800 1111
Citizens Advice Bureau 020 8349 0954
Cruse Bereavement Care 020 7431 7122
Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935
E Finchley Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
Missing Persons Helpline 0500 700700
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape Crisis Centre 020 7837 1600
Relate 020 8445 0888
Samaritans 020 8889 6888
Refuge National Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

Health Advice

AIDS Helpline 0800 567123
Alcoholics Anonymous 020 7352 3001
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
CancerLink 0800 132905
Carers National Assoc. 020 8343 3665
Drinkline 0800 9178282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Health Information Service 0800 665544
Homeopathic Helpline 09065 343404*
MIND 020 8343 5700
N. London Blood Service 020 8258 2700

OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511
Barnet OAPs Welfare 020 8441 4853
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162
Counsel & Care 0845 300 7585
Help the Aged 0800 096 2541

Crime

Emergency 999
Finchley Police 020 8200 1212
Golders Gr. Police 020 8209 1212
Muswell Hill Police 020 8442 1212
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 020 8343 4435

Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Edgware General 020 8952 2381
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 6300
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070
Western Eye Hosp 020 7886 6666

Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 484950
City Airport 020 7646 0000
Greenline 020 8668 7261
LT Enquiries 020 7222 1234
Grey-Green 020 8800 8010
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow 020 8759 4321

Animal Welfare

Nat Strays Bureau 09065 123999*
RSPCA 0870 5555999

EAST FINCHLEY ADVICE SERVICE

42 Church Lane, London N2 8DT.
Tel/Fax: 020 8444 6265

General Advice.

Monday to Friday: 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.
Thursdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Immigration Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm by appointment only.

Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

Contact East Finchley's
Community Police Officer,
PC Paul Carter, at
The Community Office,
Golders Green Station,
Tel: 020 8733 5562 or e-mail:
paul.carter@met.police.uk

Community Services

- ❖ Credit Union, Green Man Community Centre 020 8883 4916
- ❖ Careers advice, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916
- ❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Estate Heating Scandal

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Cold comfort

Residents have attempted to address the heating problems before. While Camden Council was in control of the Housing Trust, residents claim they were often fobbed off by explanations ranging from environmental regulations (that have required heating to be on a constantly low heat), "mindless acts of vandalism" or temporary faults. None of these excuses help explain why heating has consistently broken down for the last 22 years. THE ARCHER can reveal that when Peabody took over the Trusteeship some six years ago they received a grant from central government of £1,374,000 for upgrades around the Estate. For that much money, residents point out, they could have all had brand new boilers fitted into their homes. Instead, they say, money has been wasted attempting to fix a system that is not only too old but has never worked to the satisfaction of the Estate.

Action stations

Residents of the Strawberry Vale Estate complain that, under the Peabody Housing Trust, the Estate has been in a state of decline. They cite issues such as the heating system failures, poor rubbish collection, the presence of abandoned cars, sub-standard gardening and, above all, the apparent absence of effective cleaning as signs that the Estate is not being run properly. Dave Green, a Vale resident, fears that without immediate action the Estate could deteriorate into a ghetto.

Right to manage

After years of frustration a number of residents are taking a more concerted and organised approach to resolve the problem. Debbie and David McCauley

have got together with other residents to form the Leaseholders and Freeholders Action Committee Group. They have written a letter to Peabody Housing Trust outlining their grievances and have threatened to take over the running of the Estate themselves under the Government's *Right to Manage* scheme unless these issues are addressed. We eagerly await Peabody's response.

Witness Appeal

Police are appealing for information following a fatal collision on the North Circular Road near the junction with Finchley High Road at approximately 18.25 on Friday 14 November.

A white Renault Clio travelling east on the A406, and close to the BP Garage was seen weaving in and out of traffic before it left the road and hit a tree. The driver, a 22-year-old man from N15, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Anyone who witnessed the accident or who has any information is urged to contact the police on 020 8246 9820.

Public Involvement in Planning

Barnet Council wants to involve the public in Council planning, in areas such as housing, open land and sustainable development.

At a recent meeting of the Finchley Society, Ros Ward, the Borough's principal planner for development and regeneration, said that "unless the community is involved, the new planning system will not work. It must reflect what the community wants, and individuals must feel that their participation will make a difference."

Mobile Mast Update

By John Dearing

A second mobile telephone array has been erected on top of the Viceroy Close flats and looks like it is there to stay, much to the dismay of the residents.

The Barnet Council Planning department has informed residents that this array, commissioned by MMO2, and the one that preceded it last year, erected on behalf of the Hutchison Company, are 'Permitted Developments' and are, as such, outside planning regulations. However, they also state that only two antennae systems may be installed as 'Permitted Developments' and any more must be subject to planning permission.

About two weeks after this, new scaffolding appeared by the building and it was learnt that Orange now intended to install an array. At the time of writing, however, Barnet Council had not received a planning application.

The installation team eventually arrived to do the work, to be met by a deputation of Viceroy Close residents, who told them that their array was unwelcome. On hearing this they decided that they would postpone their work, as they

did not wish to incur any undue opposition. They said that after reconsideration it may or may not be restarted but, if it were, they would include a security guard in the team, given the strength of local opposition.

No doubt they are mindful of the reception given to the team installing an antennae system on a factory building in Albert Road in Muswell Hill, a couple of weeks ago. Placard-bearing residents and TV news cameras greeted them and the incident was featured on the news programme that day.

Local Planning Applications

11 Fortis Green, N2 (pavement outside)

- erection of new freestanding, non-illuminated London Borough of Barnet signage and sponsorship panel.

332/334 High Road

- (land at rear of). Erection of new three-storey, one bedroom dwelling house following demolition of existing storage building.

27 New Trinity Road

- erection of a terrace of six three-storey houses with associated car-parking and vehicular accesses following demolition of existing Scout Hall.

472A Long Lane

- demolition of existing buildings and construction of a three-storey building comprising of six flats.

258 East End Road

- partial demolition and partial reconstruction of existing building to form six three-bedroom self-contained flats and maisonettes. Conversion of existing roofspace including addition of two dormer windows.